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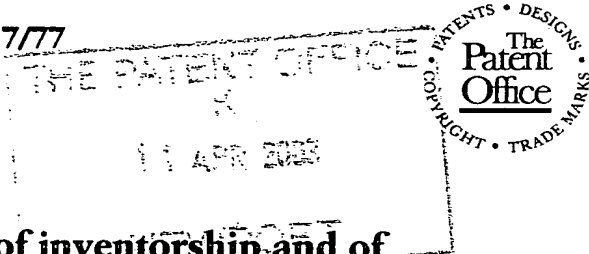
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Dated

12 February 2004

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7/77

**Statement of inventorship and of
right to grant of a patent**

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

1. Your reference

DY3120

2. Patent application number
(if you know it)

0308338.3

11 APR 2003

3. Full name of the or of each applicant

ROLLS-ROYCE PLC

4. Title of the invention

VANE MOUNTING

5. State how the applicant(s) derived the right
from the inventor(s) to be granted a patent

BY VIRTUE OF AN AGREEMENT DATED 21 MARCH 2003

6. How many, if any, additional Patents Forms
7/77 are attached to this form?
(see note (c))

1

7.

I/We believe that the person(s) named over the page (and on
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which the above patent application relates to.

Signature

Date

8. Name and daytime telephone number of
person to contact in the United Kingdom

M A GUNN

10.4.2003

T A LITTLE

01332 249397

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Enter the full names, addresses and postcodes of the inventors in the boxes and underline the surnames

CEDRIC BRETT HARPER
41 MUIRFIELD DRIVE
MICKLEOVER
DERBY
DE3 5YA

Patents ADP number (if you know it):

820849901

Patents ADP number (if you know it):

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Have you signed the form?

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1/77

11APR03 E799512-1 000370
 P01/7700 0.00-0305338.3

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Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

1. Your reference

DY3120

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0308338.3

11 APR 2003

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

ROLLS-ROYCE PLC
 65 BUCKINGHAM GATE
 LONDON
 SW1E 6AT

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

3970002

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

ENGLAND

4. Title of the invention

VANE MOUNTING

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

M A GUNN

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

ROLLS-ROYCE plc
 PATENTS DEPARTMENT
 PO BOX 31
 DERBY
 DE24 8BJ

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

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6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
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Date of filing
 (day / month / year)

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Number of earlier application

Date of filing
 (day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
- b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
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Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description

8

Claim(s)

2

Abstract

1

Drawing(s)

1

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Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

2

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

1

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

1

Any other documents (please specify)

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT FEE SHEET

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

M A Gunn

Date

M A GUNN

10.4.2003

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Vane Mounting

The present invention relates to vane mountings and more particularly to vane mountings used in gas turbine engines as mountings for outlet guide vanes.

A number of vanes are provided in stator assemblies within gas turbine engines in order to appropriately guide air flows through the engine. The stator vanes do not rotate but must be resiliently located to provide guiding with limited if any possibility of detachment of a vane creating damage to expensive casings and turbine blades within the engine. Normally, a number of vane elements are located between inner and outer mounting platforms to form segments that are then combined to provide a vane assembly. Generally the inner mounting platform is manufactured from cast aluminium, the vanes themselves are forged aluminium and the outer platform is a fibre reinforced material produced by compression moulding. The vanes are located within slots in the inner and outer mounting platforms.

Fig. 1 is a schematic perspective view illustrating vanes 1 located within an outer mounting platform 4 and inner mounting platform 5. As can be seen each outer mounting platform 4 is incorporated in a casing 2 through a slot 3. Thus, the vanes 1 in platforms 4 and 5 constitute a vane segment.

The vanes 1 are secured in the platforms 4, 5 at mounting ends 6. These mounting ends 6 enter a slot in the platform 4, 5 within which the mounting end 6 of each vane 1 is potted and secured using an appropriate material. This material 8 acts to provide vibration damping in addition to location and presentation of vane 1 within its vane segment. A typical material to provide vibration damping is known as Silastic J.

In accordance with the present invention there is provided a vane mounting arrangement for improved vibration damping, the arrangement comprising an aperture in a mounting platform to receive a mounting end of a vane, the arrangement including selectively expansive means between the aperture and the mounting end to provide a seal and/or association between them.

Preferably, the expansive means comprises an inflatable bladder. Typically, the bladder is inflatable by a fluid such as a gas, liquid or both. Possibly, the fluid is an electro rheological or magnetic rheological fluid which changes its viscosity when subjected to an electrical potential or magnetic field.

Normally, the expansive means acts principally between the mounting end and an opposed surface of the aperture in the mounting platform.

Typically, the expansive means also provides vibration control and/or vibration decoupling between the mounting end and the mounting platform.

Possibly, the expansive means is secured to the mounting end and/or the aperture. Possibly, the expansive means is secured by adhesive or an interference fit or keyed association.

Generally, there is longitudinally and planar engagement between the mounting end and the expansive means.

Possibly, the expansive means is an inflatable hollow member such as a sheath or boot filled with a pressurised fluid for expansion.

Typically, the vane mounting arrangement provides aperture sin an inner and/or outer platform or in apertures in opposed platforms.

Also in accordance with the present invention there is provided a mounting platform including a plurality of

apertures, each aperture arranged to receive in use a mounting end of a respective one of a plurality of vanes with a respective selectively expandable means provided between that aperture and the mounting end of the
5 respective vane.

Also in accordance with the present invention there is provided an outlet guide vane assembly incorporating vane mounting arrangements as described above.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be
10 described by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Fig. 2 is a schematic cross-section of a first embodiment of a vane mounting arrangement in accordance with the present invention; and

15 Fig. 3 is a schematic cross-section of a second embodiment of a vane mounting arrangement in accordance with the present invention.

Figs. 2 and 3 illustrate alternative embodiments of the present invention. In accordance with the present
20 invention an expansive member or element is used in order to provide a seal, vibration control/decoupling and assembly location of a vane mounting end within an aperture of a mounting platform. The expansive element is typically a hollow member inflatable by an appropriate fluid in order
25 to create the seal, vibration control and fixing association.

Fig. 2 illustrates a first embodiment of a vane mounting arrangement 21 in accordance with the present invention. The arrangement 21 comprises a vane 22 with a
30 mounting end 23 and a mounting platform 24 which defines an aperture 25 within which an expandable member 26 is located. In comparison with Fig. 1 the platform 24 is an inner mounting platform (5 in Fig. 1) for a vane assembly such as an outlet guide vane assembly of a gas turbine

engine. However, the present invention is also applicable to outer mounting platforms. The expandable or expansive member 26 is hollow such that a cavity 27 is filled with a pressurisable fluid such as air or a liquid. Thus, the

5 expandable or expansive member 26 acts between the mounting end 23 and the aperture 25 in order to create a seal about that end 23, provide secured location of the vane 22 and also typically provides at least some decoupling of vibration between the vane 22 and the mounting platform 24.

10 The expandable or expansive member 26 may be associated with means to pressurise the fluid in the cavity 27 variably and selectively in order to alter the strength of positioning and seal between the mounting end 23 and the mounting platform 24. Alternatively, an expandable member

15 26 will be located within the aperture 25 and then the mounting end 23 forced between the sides of the member 26 in order to pressurise the fluid within the cavities 27 and therefore achieve appropriate sealing, association and vibration control. The expandable member 26 may comprise a

20 single ring about the periphery of the aperture 25 or several expandable members or bags located within the aperture 25 in order to create an appropriate combination as an expandable member assembly within the aperture 25 to locate the mounting end 23.

25 In order to achieve vibration control typically the fluid within the cavity 27 must retain a degree of elasticity to absorb vibration. However, the fluid within the cavity 27 may have a electro-rheological or magnetic rheological function whereby through appropriate use of

30 electrical or magnetic control elements associated with the platform that fluid within the cavity 27 can be rendered to have a viscosity approximating a solid for greater structural association and positioning of the vane 22

relative to the mounting platform 24 but with reduced vibration control or vice versa with lower viscosity.

As indicated above the expandable member 26 is generally hollow and inflated by a pressurised fluid in the cavity 27. In such circumstances the member 26 presses against the mounting end 23 and sides of the aperture 25 in order to form a seal, to grip the mounting end 23 and to provide vibration damping of the vane 22. Typically, the member 26 is configured with the cavity 27 and pressurised fluid such that there is substantial expansion and compression in a direction of arrowheads 28 between opposed substantially planar surfaces of the member 26 and respectively the mounting end 23 and aperture 25. Thus, there will be limited outward bulging upwards or downwards from the aperture 25.

To further improve association, opposed surfaces of the member 26 and the mounting end 23 and/or aperture 25 may be secured together through adhesive or friction association. Such fixed association between the expandable member 26 and the mounting end 23 and/or aperture 25 will prevent slippage of the member 26 within the aperture 25 and relative to the vane 22 as a result of forces presented to the vane 22 in operation, that is to say as a result of vibration due to air flows guided by the vane 22.

As indicated above the fluid within the cavity 27 will generally be specifically pressurised or the pressurisation created by forced positioning of the mounting end 23 within the member 26 will be such that appropriate sealing, association and vibration damping is achieved. In order to remove the vane 22 either the means for creating pressurisation within the cavity 27 will be removed rendering the member 26 more flaccid to enable extraction of the vane 22 or the vane 22 simply pulled in an opposite action to the forced entry approach described. It will

also be understood that through temperature or electro rheological or magnetic rheological action the viscosity and pressurisation of fluid within the cavity 27 may be altered to also facilitate extraction of the vane 22.

5 Fig. 3 illustrates a second embodiment of the present invention. Thus, a vane mounting arrangement 31 comprises a vane 32 secured within a cavity 35 formed in a mounting platform 34. The vane 32 is secured and sealed through a mounting end 33 using an expandable member 36. The
10 expandable member 36 essentially fills the gap between the aperture 35 and the mounting end 33.

As previously, the expandable member 36 is a hollow component with a cavity 37 normally filled with an appropriate pressurisable fluid to create abutment pressure
15 between the mounting end 33 and surfaces of the cavity 35.

A particular feature of a second embodiment based in Fig. 3 is inclusion of a keyed association between a shaped dovetail groove 38 in the aperture 35 and a reciprocal part 39 in the expandable member 36. Thus, rather than depend
20 upon adhesion or an interference fit as with expandable member 26 in Fig. 2, the expandable member 36 in the second embodiment depicted in Fig. 3 has a secure radial position due to the keyed association between the dovetail groove 38 and the reciprocal part 39 of the expandable member 36.
25 Other shapes for the groove and reciprocal part could be used.

The fluid retained within the cavity 37 will be pressurised as described previously in order to create the desired seal, fixed association for the vane 32 and
30 vibration damping as required for an effective vane mounting arrangement.

Normally the expandable member 26, 36 in accordance with the present invention will be made from an elastomeric material such as rubber and as described previously the

fluid within the cavity 27, 37 will be a gas, air or a liquid appropriately chosen to achieve a good seal as well as vibration damping and reliable presentation of the vane 22, 32 from the platform 24, 34.

5 Of particular advantage with the present invention is the ability to vary the pressure presented through the fluid in the cavity 27, 37. By varying the degree of pressurisation of this fluid within the cavity 27, 37 the level of vibration damping can be adjusted to particular
10 requirements. It will also be understood that the pressurisation of the fluid within the cavity 27, 37 can be increased or decreased dependent upon the necessity for appropriate presentation and sealing of the vane 22, 32. Thus residual stresses within the vane 22, 32 as a result
15 of temperature variations causing expansion and contraction of the vane 22, 32 may be accommodated in comparison with previous substantially fixed mounting arrangements in which the mounting ends are effectively potted in a material of fixed response whereas the present members 26, 36 can vary
20 that seal and fixing response dependent upon current requirements. Expansion and contraction of the vanes in a previous "potting" material such as Silastic J will repeatedly break the surface bond between the mounting end and the "potting" material leading to possible seal failure
25 and degradation at least.

As indicated above it is generally the mounting of vanes into inner platforms 5 and outer platforms 2 which is of particular concern with regard to the present invention. However, it will also be understood that the vane segments
30 7 formed from combinations of vanes 1 and platforms 4, 5 are secured within slots 3 and that expandable members in accordance with the present invention could be secured between those platforms 2, 3 and casing slots 3 for appropriate sealing, vibration control and location.

The expandable members 26, 36 may be reinforced by embedded fibre mesh or other means particularly to prevent upward or downward bulging of the members 26, 36 and so create preferential radial expansion into sealing engagement with the mounting end 33 and platform 34 through the aperture 35.

Whilst endeavouring in the foregoing specification to draw attention to those features of the invention believed to be of particular importance it should be understood that the Applicant claims protection in respect of any patentable feature or combination of features hereinbefore referred to and/or shown in the drawings whether or not particular emphasis has been placed thereon.

Claims

1. A vane mounting arrangement comprising an aperture in a mounting platform to receive a mounting end of a vane,
5 the arrangement including selectively expansive means between the aperture and the mounting end to provide a seal and/or association between them.
2. An arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the expansive means comprises an inflatable bladder.
- 10 3. An arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bladder is inflatable by a fluid such as a gas, liquid or both.
4. An arrangement as claimed in claim 3, wherein the fluid is an electro rheological or magnetic rheological
15 fluid which changes its viscosity when subjected to an electrical potential or a magnetic field.
5. An arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the expansive means acts principally between the mounting end and an opposed surface of the aperture in the
20 mounting platform.
6. An arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the expansive means also provides vibration control and/or vibration decoupling between the mounting end and the mounting platform.
- 25 7. An arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the expansive means is secured to the mounting end and/or the aperture.
8. An arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the expansive means is secured by adhesive or an
30 interference fit or keyed association.
9. An arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein there is planar engagement between the mounting end and the expansive means.

10. An arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the expansive means is an inflatable hollow member such as a sheath or boot filled with a pressurised fluid for expansion.
- 5 11. An arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the expansion means comprises several expandable members which combine about the mounting end.
12. An arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the arrangement provides an aperture in an inner
10 platform and/or an outer platform or apertures in opposed platforms.
13. A vane mounting arrangement substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Fig. 2.
14. A vane arrangement substantially as hereinbefore
15 described with reference to Fig. 3.
15. A gas turbine engine including a vane mounting arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim.
16. A mounting platform including a plurality of apertures, each aperture arranged to receive a mounting end
20 of a respective one of a plurality of vanes with a respective selectively expandable means provided between that aperture and the mounting end of the respective vane.
17. An outlet guide vane mounted in an arrangement as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14.
- 25 18. Any novel subject matter or combination including novel subject matter disclosed herein, whether or not within the scope of or relating to the same invention as any of the preceding claims.

AbstractA Vane Mounting

5 A vane mounting arrangement 21, 31 is provided in
which a vane 22, 32 is secured through a mounting end 23,
33 within an aperture 25, 35 formed in a mounting platform
24, 34. An expandable or expansive member 26, 36 is
10 located between the mounting end 33 and the aperture 35 in
order to create compressive engagement between the mounting
end 33 and the aperture 25, 35 of the platform 24, 34. The
member 26, 36 is hollow with a fluid within a cavity 27, 37
in order to create the desired pressurised location by
selective expansion. Thus, the assembly 21, 31 through the
15 expandable members 26, 36 achieves a seal along with
vibration decoupling and appropriate presentation of the
vane 22, 32 relative to the platform 24, 34.



